

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY ROGERS NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY

CONFERENCE FOR SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, LATIN

AMERICAN PORTION

SECRETARY ROGERS RECENTLY SPOKE ON BACKGROUND TO THE NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE FOR SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AND MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT LATIN AMERICA. HIS COMMENTS ARE BEING SENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECRETARY' S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA.

THE SECRETARY LISTED AS ONE OF THE USG FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES " TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY OF INTEREST WITH THE STATES OF LATIN AMERICA ON GLOBAL AS WELL AS HEMISPHERIC ISSUES -- SUPPORTING THE EXPANDING ROLES THAT MANY LATIN AMERICAN STATES ARE ASSUMING IN WORLD AFFAIRS."

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HE WENT ON TO SAY: " I HOPE TO VISIT LATIN AMERICA INMAY."

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION ON LATIN AMERICAHE ANSWERED:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU GIVE US SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES YOU HAVE IN MIND IN YOUR FORTHCOMING TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, AND POSSIBLY SOME OF THOSE THAT DEAL IN THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT AREA.

A: YES. I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT LATIN AMERICA IS THE ONE AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE I AM A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED IN WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD. AND THAT IS TRUE BECAUSE WE PROMISED THEM THAT WE WOULD GIVE GENERALIZED PREFERENCES PARTICULARLY TO LATIN AMERICA. WE PROMISED THEM TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, AND WE NEVER CARRIED OUT OUR PROMISE, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, BECAUSE WE HAD DIFFICULTY, WE COULDN' T GET THE LEGISLATION THROUGH THE CONGRESS. BUT NONETHELESS WE DID INDICATE TO THEM THAT WE WERE GOING TO DO THAT. WE DIDN' T CARRY THROUGH.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE CREATED THE IMPRESSION -- I THINK IT IS A FALSE IMPRESSION, BUT NONETHELESS I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THEY FEEL -- THAT WE HAVE SORT OF LOST INTEREST IN THEM. AND THAT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND WE HAVE NOT REALLY SHOWN THEM THE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION THAT THEY DESERVE.

THE THIRD THING IS THEY HAVE GROWN, AND AS THEY HAVE BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS, AND THEY ARE MORE ACTIVE IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY SOME OF THE COUNTRIES, WE HAVE SAID TO THEM IN EFFECT " WE WANT YOU TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT, WE WANT YOU TO BECOME MORE SOVEREIGN. WE DON' T WANT YOU TO FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BEING PATERNALISTIC TOWARDS YOU." BUT IN THAT PROCESS -- AND I THINK IT IS A DESIRABLE PROCESS -- OF NOT BEING PATERNALISTIC, AND DEALING WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THE WAY WE DEAL WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ON THE SAME BASIS OF EQUALITY, RESPECT, THAT CREATES THE IMPRESSION AGAIN THAT WE SORT OF HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THEM.

I JUST HAD AN OAS MEETING HERE, AND I MADE A SPEECH ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FACT THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO BE PATERNALISTIC, BUT THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTED AND WE HOPED TO COOPERATE, WE HOPED TO DO AS MUCH AS WE COULD, BUT WE WANTED TO DO IT ON THE BASIS OF BEING EQUALS. IT WAS INTERESTING THAT SOME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CAME IN AND SAID, " YOU SAY YOU DON' T WANT TO BE PATERNALISTIC. AND WE SAY WE DON' T WANT YOU TO BE PATERNALISTIC. BUT WE

WOULD LIKETO HAVE YOU BE A LITTLE PATERNALISTIC."

SO YOU ASK ME WHAT I HOPE TO DO. FIRST I HOPE TO REASSURE THEM WE ARE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GET GENERALIZED PREFERENCES THROUGH TO THEM. SECONDLY, TO CONVINCE THEM THAT PRESIDENT NIXON AND I AND ALL OF US ARE REALLY DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THEIR FUTURE, IN THEIR WELFARE. AND THIRD, THAT WE WILL COOPERATE AS FULLY AS WE CAN IN WAYS THAT ARE PRACTICAL AT THE PRESENT TIME -- NOT BY PROMISING THEM, AS WE DID IN THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS, A LOT OF THINGS THAT WE KNEW WE COULD NOT DELIVER, BUT TO TRY TO REASSURE THEM THAT WE ARE INTERESTED AND THAT WE WILL MAKE CERTAIN PROMISES, AND WHEN WE MAKE THOSE PROMISES, WE INTEND TO LIVE UP TO THEM. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT
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